

Bedwas & Blachen Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1969.

BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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BEDWAS AND MACHEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

YEAR 1969-70

Chairman	Councillor S.G. Lewis
Vice-Chairman	..	..	..	..	Councillor W.C. Barnes

MEMBERS :-

Councillor D.E.J. Arthur	Councillor D.R. Perrott
" R.T. Davies	" J.S. Blackwell
" A.J. Underwood	" Mrs. L.D. James
" F. Phipps	" Mrs. M.P. Jones, M.A.(Oxon)
" R. Davies	" L. Nicholas, M.B.E.
" L. Norval	" Mrs. C. Powell
" E.F. Pearce	" W.A. Richards

OFFICERS :-

Clerk of the Council	..	..	..	R.W.P. Humphreys
Medical Officer of Health	..	..		L.J. Powell
Engineer and Surveyor	..	..	..	A. Gowland
Chief Financial Officer	..	..		D.N. Lewis
Public Health Inspector	..	..		I. Jones
Additional Public Health Inspector	..			R. Mitchard
Bankers	..	..	..	Co-operative Wholesale Society

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Bedwas,
Mon.

June, 1970.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Bedwas
and Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ending
31st December, 1969.

STATISTICS RELATING TO THE URBAN DISTRICT

Approximate Area	..	..	..	..	6,200 acres
Population (Census 1961)	..	..	..	..	10,234
Population (Estimated Mid-June 1969)	..	..	..	..	12,380
Rateable Value (1969)	..	..	..	..	£256,329
Rate in the £	..	..	..	..	16/9d
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated)	..	..	..	..	£1,115

BIRTH RATES

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	114	122	236
Illegitimate	4	14	18
TOTAL :	118	136	254

BIRTH RATE PER THOUSAND OF THE POPULATION

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council (Crude)	..	..	19.9
England and Wales	..	..	16.3

STILLBIRTHS

The total number of stillbirths during the year were :-

1 Male and 2 Females.

STILLBIRTH RATE PER 1,000 LIVE AND STILLBIRTHS

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council	..	..	12
England and Wales	..	..	13

INFANT MORTALITY

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year of age :-

4 Males and 3 Females.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council	28
England and Wales	18

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Number of Maternal Deaths	NIL
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DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	1	-	1
Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	5	10
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.	1	-	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	1	3
Hypertensive Disease	1	1	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	27	15	42
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	2	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	10	8	18
Other Disease of Circulatory System	-	1	1
Pneumonia	2	2	4
Bronchitis and Emphysema	9	1	10
Asthma	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	-	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	-	2
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	1	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	1	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	1	1	2
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	2	1	3
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	2
All Other Accidents	3	1	4
All Other External Causes	1	1	2
TOTAL :	75	50	125

DEATH RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION

Bedwas and Machen U.D. Council	..	..	..	..	..	10.1
England and Wales	..	..	..	..	..	11.9

PREVELENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

This year's Infectious Diseases Notifications, which were sent in by the Local Practitioners and Institutions, are :-

The total number of notifications were - 70.

The cases notified and classified in Ward Incidence are as follows :-

Ward	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	T.B.
Maesycwmmmer	13	-	-	1
Bedwas	7	-	-	-
Trethomas	13	-	-	1
Machen	35	-	-	-
TOTAL :	68	-	-	2

TUBERCULOSIS

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 2 new cases were received as follows :-

WARD INCIDENCE

Ward	Males	Females
Maesycwmmmer	1	-
Bedwas	-	-
Trethomas	1	-
Machen	-	-
TOTAL :	2	-

The above mentioned cases were of the Pulmonary Tuberculosis type.

MEASLES

Vaccination against measles gives substantial protection against the disease. Approximately 95% of children achieve satisfactory immunity within four weeks of vaccination.

Although the duration of immunity following such vaccination has not yet been fully established it is certainly expected to last for some years. Time will show whether reinforcing doses are required and protection may be life long.

Immunisation has been available since 1968 but there was an interruption in the supply of vaccine during 1969. However, supplies have now come forward and measles vaccine can be given at any time from the age of one year upwards, but the aim is to give it to all children in the second year of life as part of the programme of protective immunisation in early childhood, as some of the most severe clinical cases occur between nine months and 2 years. It is not necessary to vaccinate any child who has already had a natural attack of the disease.

The case for supporting Vaccination against Measles

In this country measles is usually a mild disease. However, because of the high incidence of the disease and its serious complications it is the most troublesome of the childhood infections. Among children today it is the major cause of morbidity and an important cause of death.

Five hundred thousand children are affected by the disease in an average measles epidemic which occurs every two years, when on average :

20,000	children	will develop respiratory complications
13,000	"	" " " ear infection complications
2,000	"	" " " neurological complications
500	"	" " " measles encephalitis
100	"	" " " die as a result of measles (A figure which is much higher than the combined total number of deaths from all the common epidemic infective illness in childhood).
6,000	"	" " " have required admission to hospital.

DIPHTHERIA

Vaccination and immunisation have played a major role in almost eradicating some diseases, but there is cause for concern at the levels of immunisation. Only about half of the area's two year olds are immunised against diphtheria and the three cases of diphtheria which occurred in Monmouthshire just before Christmas came as a grim reminder that this disease is still at large in our communities. This was, however, the first outbreak in Wales for five years, but complacency could lead us back to the bad old days - to 1941, for instance, when there were more than 63,000 cases of diphtheria in Britain.

It is very important to warn parents of the continuing need for immunising children against diphtheria.

POLLUTION

Man is unexcelled in his ability to pollute his environment and 1969 must be seen as the year when this country and, indeed the whole of Europe, woke up to the problems of pollution and conservation.

There is mounting evidence from many responsible sources that the whole of civilization is heading for eventual extinction because of what we have allowed to be done in the name of progress, to our total environment. We have poured sewage, detergent, organochlorine pesticides, polychlorinated biphenols, radioactive waste, hydrocarbons, diesel fumes, asbestos, lead, mercury, fluoride, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrates, phosphates and (not least) oil over ourselves, our fellow creatures, our land and down our mines and into the seas.

However, we now have a Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution and an Advisory Council established to deal with pollution by noise and it is to be hoped that we will be in time to save ourselves from this threatening menace of our own making.

FLUORIDATION OF DRINKING WATER IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AFTER THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED COMMITTEE'S ELEVEN YEAR STUDIES.

The results in all the study areas conclusively demonstrated the value of fluoridation at the level of one part per million. This level is said to be a highly effective way of reducing dental decay and is completely safe.

In all the study areas the value of fluoridation was seen both in the temporary and permanent teeth of the children. In the temporary teeth of children aged three to seven inclusive, the amount of decay fell by about a half - more than twice as many children were free from decayed teeth and the number of children with ten or more decayed teeth fell by four-fifths.

FLUORIDATION OF DRINKING WATER IN THE UNITED
KINGDOM AFTER THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED
COMMITTEE'S ELEVEN YEAR STUDIES (CONT'D.)

In the permanent teeth of children aged eight, nine and ten, the reduction in the amount of decay was about a third and again there was a substantial increase in the proportion with no dental decay.

The studies will continue, of course, in order to assess the effects of fluoridation in older children and eventually in adults, but, as far as children up to 11 years of age are concerned, the Committee is in no doubt that fluoridation "produces a substantial reduction in the amount of dental decay in the temporary teeth"; and that in these age groups in which it can be expected to have affected the resistance of permanent teeth to dental decay, fluoridation is also having a beneficial effect.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

L.J. Powell

Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Council Offices,
Bedwas,
Mon.

June, 1970.

To:- The Chairman and Members of the Bedwas and
Machen Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year ended 31st
December, 1969.

NOTICES SERVED

<u>PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Sections 92 & 93)</u>	<u>1969</u>
<u>(Abatement of Nuisances: Repairs to</u>	
<u>Properties).</u>	

Preliminary Notices and Letters	104
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HOUSING

There has been a steady take-up of grants available for
the provision of bathrooms, etc., particularly where the older
houses are being sold.

The new increased scale for grants has now come into
force, but it is too early to say whether there will be any
significant increase in applications.

The provision of bathrooms in non-Council owned
properties is not limited to any particular area, and
by and large the whole area is improving steadily.

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Houses demolished (Not in Clearance Areas)	3
Houses still standing and subject to Demolition or Closing Orders	4
Number of above houses still occupied	NIL
Number of houses dealt with other than in Clearance Areas	2

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES
IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED

After informal action by Local Authority	38
After formal Notice under Public Health Acts ..	NIL

RENT ACT, 1957

There were no applications during the year.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Inspections were carried out of houses and flats on the cessation of tenancies.

Disinfestation for bed-bugs, or precautions against infestation, was necessary in comparatively few instances.

Visits and re-visits made	125
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Visits necessitated by enquiries in regard to 'bad rent tenants' have increased principally at the Graig-y-Rhacca site, obviously the result of the higher rents appertaining here; tenants probably finding initial difficulty in adjusting to the higher rents.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There were 68 cases of Measles, 2 Pulmonary T.B., 4 Infectious Hepatitis and 2 Gastro Enteritis notifications received during the year.

The Tuberculosis cases were investigated ascertaining housing conditions, and advice given, where necessary.

There were no Scarlet Fever or Whooping Cough notifications.

WATER SUPPLIES

Mains water is supplied by the Taf Fechan Water Board. 12 samples were taken for analysis as a check during the year, and each proved entirely satisfactory.

I had made several representations to the Taf Fechan Water Board regarding the water storage tank at Cwm Fedw, Machen. It was very difficult to prevent various debris being thrown over the protecting fences into the tank and although the water was sterilised and rendered perfectly safe, it was a potential source of danger. However, an alternative supply has now been provided so that the use of this storage tank has become unnecessary and has been discontinued.

DRAINS AND SEWERS

Soil drains and sewers are discharged into the trunk sewer of the Rhymney Valley Sewerage Board, and the system appears to be functioning adequately.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The Council is a participant in the County Radio-Active Fallout Supervision Scheme whereby samples of air, drinking water, rainwater, sewage effluent and bulk milk supplies are taken and examined as to the amount of radio-activity given off. Information is forwarded to the office every quarter, and up to the present time the radio-activity is well below the dangerous level.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

Domestic refuse is collected once weekly from every dwelling in the district, and there is no official collection of any trade refuse. Collections have been withdrawn from some lock-up premises where no-one resides, and this has necessitated the occupiers making other arrangements. However, no undue difficulty has arisen.

A certain amount of indiscriminate dumping of rubbish takes place on some open areas, particularly the ex-prefabricated houses sites, and so consideration might be given to the provision at certain selected spots of containers for the reception of unwanted rubbish which cannot be placed in the ordinary bins. These containers should be removable for emptying and cleansing.

The Civil Amenities Act requires the Local Authority to provide 'places' where refuse may be deposited at all reasonable times, and such a place must be reasonably accessible, so dependant upon the position of the refuse tip and the amount of indiscriminate dumping that may take place, the Council may have to consider such a suggestion.

The use of the Fountain Bridge Refuse Tip had ceased during the year, and has been partially covered over with soil. This tip has become innocuous now and the trouble with the rodent infestation, smell and smoke from the burning of the tip has, to all intents and purposes, been eradicated.

It may be that with the advent of larger Local Authorities, incineration may be the future method of refuse disposal, particularly as tipping sites are becoming more difficult to find.

ABANDONED VEHICLES

During the year I have caused 35 cars to be removed which, seemingly, had been abandoned. A considerable amount of time has been spent also on contacting owners of cars which are in a poor condition and possibly on the point of abandonment, and offering assistance in disposal. In this way, I think I have achieved the result of having many repaired or removed by the owner and preventing abandonment.

CARAVAN SITES

There are two Licensed Sites within the district, one at Pandy Road, Bedwas, and the other at Newport Road, Trethomas. Both are privately owned.

The owner of the Trethomas Site is now deceased, and the future use of this site is uncertain at the moment.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications received and granted totalled ..	34
The amount of money totalled	£6,310
One application was received for a Discretionary Grant	£2,578

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

Number of shops in which Assistants are employed	32
Number of other Food Shops	26
Number of Cafes	4
Number of Fish Friers	5

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT

(a) Manufacture of Sausages and Cooked Meats	4
(b) Sale of Ice-cream	30
(c) Manufacture of Ice-cream	1

SUMMARY OF FOODSTUFFS SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED

Cheese	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	480 lbs.
Frozen Chicken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 lbs. 10 ozs
Eggs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,620 lbs.
Canned Meats	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Carcase Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104 lbs.

SHOPS, CAFES AND CANTEENS

Inspections were carried out of all Shops, Cafes and Canteens, and the number of visits made for this purpose totalled 115.

The standard of cleanliness and hygiene is normally satisfactory, but obviously from time to time defects or nuisances arise, and a letter or verbal request to the owners usually achieves a satisfactory result. There have been no refusals to do any necessary works to date.

LICENSED PREMISES

The 12 Public Houses in the area were all visited periodically and inspected. They all have a continuous supply of hot running water for cleansing purposes as required by the Food Hygiene Regulations.

In general, the Breweries concerned are steadily improving their Houses and comply fairly readily with requests for attention to various items of disrepair that occur from time to time.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

No. of registered hairdressers	15
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Premises are regularly inspected and the inspections show that the bye-laws are adhered to so that a satisfactory standard of cleanliness is maintained.

MEAT INSPECTION

A hundred per cent meat inspection has been carried out by myself and your Additional Public Health Inspector at the three private slaughterhouses throughout the year. This still entails working on Sundays and overtime on some week-days.

For the last three months of the year we were without an Additional Public Health Inspector, so this entailed a considerable amount of extra work for your Senior Public Health Inspector.

MEAT INSPECTION (CONT'D.)

The overall kill has declined, probably partly due to the increased price of meat and partly to the increased buying by the public of oven-ready poultry.

Incidentally, your Meat Inspector and myself have continuously provided training and tuition of Trainee Public Health Inspectors of neighbouring Authorities in meat inspection. This arrangement does enable us to ask for assistance should the need arise during the holiday period.

The statistics relating to the inspection and slaughtering are as follows :-

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep and Lambs
Number slaughtered	1,642	-	6	5,704	11,488
Number inspected	1,642	-	6	5,704	11,488
<u>All diseases except T.B. and Cystercercosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	3
Part or organ condemned	926	Nil	Nil	613	838
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	31	Nil
<u>Cystercerci</u>					
Carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

PERCENTAGES OF ANIMALS AFFECTED

Conditions other than Tuberculosis :-

Cattle, excluding cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	42%
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	12%
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	9%
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	12.5%

T.B. only :-

Cattle, excluding cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	2%
Sheep and Lambs	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

Percentage of animals affected with Cystercerci .. 4%

No carcasses were submitted to reffridgeration treatment.

Total approximate weight of meat and offals condemned :-

6 tons 17 cwts 104 lbs.

PEST CONTROL AND RODENT INFESTATION

One Rodent Operator is employed full-time in rodent disinfection.

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out during the year.

For the first eight months of the year, Rentokil Limited were poison baiting at the Fountain Bridge Refuse Tip. After the expiration of their Contract, baiting was continued by this Department and since the closure of the tip in August, there has been a steady decline in the degree of infestation, and now there is little or no infestation existing at the tip.

The trouble, nuisance and expense that has resulted from indiscriminate tipping such as had previously been carried out at this tip will underline the fact that controlled tipping is essential in the future, if other forms of destruction or incineration are not used.

The baiting and treatment of the sewers has been continued throughout the district and, in general, taking into account that this is an Urban/Rural area, there is no evidence of undue infestation.

PEST CONTROL AND RODENT INFESTATION (CONT'D.)

The following is a brief summary of work carried out during the year :-

PROPERTIES OTHER THAN SEWERS

	<u>Type of Property</u>	
	<u>Non-Agricultural</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. No. of properties in district.	3,969	40
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification.	220	6
(b) Number infested by :		
Rats	190	6
Mice	35	-
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	250	8
(b) Number infested by :		
Rats	63	6
Mice	15	2

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Class of Premises	No. of Premises Registered	No. of Persons Employed
Offices.	11	22
Retail Shops.	32	53
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses.	1	4
Catering Establishments.	5	5
T O T A L :	49	84

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES (CONT'D.)

Number of visits made during the year 110

Various minor contraventions were found at different times throughout the year. These contraventions were principally in the temporary breakdown of heating arrangements or sanitary accommodation, but after verbally requesting the managements to attend to the matters, there has been no need to proceed with further legal action, all matters having been attended to satisfactorily.

STATISTICS OF ACCIDENTS REPORTED TO THIS AUTHORITY

3 accidents were reported during the year, occurring in premises registered under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

2 occurred at one Wholesale Distributing Depot and the other occurred in a Licensed House. They were all of a minor nature.

This information was supplied to H.M. Factory Inspector, as required.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES

Visits were made to the factories and workplaces in the district, and the number of inspections for these purposes was 36.

Additional factory premises are now coming into use with the expansion of the Pant Glas and Duffryn Isaf Industrial Estates.

One workplace within the area, which was without adequate sanitary conveniences because of the unavailability of a sewer, has now been satisfactorily provided with these conveniences since the laying of an accessible sewer.

All factories and workplaces are now adequately provided with toilet accommodation, and although some defects occur from time to time, principally due to misuse by the employees, conditions generally are maintained in a satisfactory state.

There is one outworker in the district.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON
THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	No. of Regist- ered	No. of Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Verbal Notices
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 are enforced by Local Authority (i.e. Factories without mechanical power).	1	1	Nil	Nil
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (i.e. Factories where mechanical power is used).	16	16	1	7
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (i.e. Building sites).	10	10	Nil	4

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied
Section 1 - Cleanliness.	2	2
Section 7 - Provision of Sanitary Accommodation.	1	1
Building Sites.	4	4

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

I. Jones

Senior Public Health Inspector

